

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 17
By Black

A RESOLUTION to commend Grace Tomkins of Gallatin for her honorable and astute service to the people of Sumner County and recognize her as the recipient of the prestigious Order of the Horse Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Grace Tomkins is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors, and because of these character traits, she was recently awarded the Order of the Horse Award at the annual United Chambers of Commerce Luncheon; and

WHEREAS, this award began in 1997 and was originated out of the County Executive's office "to recognize someone who has contributed to making life in Sumner County better"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tomkins has shown her exemplary leadership skills through numerous involvements, including meritorious service as a member of the Board of Trustees for Sumner Regional Hospital, where she has volunteered for more than 4,000 hours. She advocated the start of the Sumner Regional Foundation, and served as Chair of this foundation for four years, all-the-while raising more than \$600,000; and

WHEREAS, this consummate professional has supported the goals of higher education by serving on the Board of Trustees for Volunteer State Community College, and chairing the College Foundation; she also served as a founder of Sumner Academy, where she continues to be actively involved; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Grace Tomkins does not limit herself to the boardroom, as she has helped to found such groups as the Gallatin Youth Soccer League, where she has coached and officiated; and

WHEREAS, this extraordinary lady has also chaired the United Way of Sumner County and has volunteered for more than twenty years with this exemplary organization; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Tomkins' eclectic interests have led her to invest over twenty-five years of her time with the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities (APTA), and she has served on the boards of Cragfont and Rock Castle; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Grace Tomkins was a founding member of the Junior Service League and continues to be a sustaining member. She has also served as a board member of the Sumner County YMCA and she played an instrumental role in the planning and fundraising for the current facility; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary life, Mrs. Grace Tomkins has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Grace Tomkins is known as a faithful and active member of her church, The First United Methodist Church of Gallatin, but will be most celebrated as a "great wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to many"; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Grace Tomkins's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Grace Tomkins is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Grace Tomkins upon receiving the Order of the Horse Award from the United Chambers of Commerce and for her honorable and astute service to the good people of Sumner County through her numerous endeavors as a founder, leader, and director in so many diverse areas of public service, and salute her unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

